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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 12 1968
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Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
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Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MEMPHIS

850AM URGENT 4-12-68 SAB

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 2P

MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS.

DR. JERRY T. FRANCISCO, MEDICAL EXAMINER, UNIVERSITY OF TENN., AT MEMPHIS, ADVISED THAT AN AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL FOUR, LAST.

HE STATED THAT AN OFFICIAL WRITTEN AUTOPSY REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE APRIL SIXTEEN, NEXT. DR. FRANCISCO FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS FINDINGS AT THE TIME OF THE AUTOPSY:

THE MISSILE ENTERED THE RIGHT JAW OF DR. KING, SIXTYONE INCHES SUPERIOR TO THE RIGHT HEEL. THIS IS A POINT FIFTY-NINE INCHES SUPERIOR TO THE RIGHT HEEL AWITH THE HEAD POSITIONED TO CORRESPOND WITH THE PATH OF THE MISSILE. THE MISSILE SEVERED THE SPINAL CORD AND CAME TO REST BENEATH THE SKIN FIFTYFIVE AND ONE HALF INCHES SUPERIOR TO THE LEFT HEEL AND THREE INCHES TO THE LEFT OF THE MID-LINE OF THE BACK. THE THICKNESS FROM THE POINT OF ENTRY, TO THE FINAL RESTING POINT OF THE MISSILE WAS EIGHT AND ONE HALF INCHES.

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DR. FRANCISCO SUMMARIZED THE ABOVE STATEMENT BY COMMENTING THAT THE BULLET ENTERED THE RIGHT JAW OF DR. KING AND TRAVELED EIGHT AND ONE HALF INCHES THROUGH THE FLESH COMING TO REST AT A POINT JUST BENEATH THE SKIN THREE INCHES TO THE LEFT OF DR. KING'S BACKBONE. DR. FRANCISCO STATED THAT HE SIGNED THE DEATH CERTIFICATE INDICATING THE OFFICIAL CAUSE OF DEATH TO BE GUN SHOT WOUND TO THORASIC CORD. THE DEATH CERTIFICATE WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM DEPT. OF HEALTH ON APRIL SIXTEEN, NEXT. ON APRIL SIXTEEN, NEXT, A COPY OF THE AUTOPSY AND DEATH CERTIFICATE WILL BE OBTAINED BY MEMPHIS DIVISION.

MR. PAUL E. MASS, ASST. ADMINISTRATOR, ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, MEMPHIS, ADVISED THAT MR. J. L. LUTON, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF HOSPITAL, HAS MAINTAINED ALL HOSPITAL RECORDS CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. UNDER LOCK AND KEY. HE STATED MR. LUTON IS CURRENTLY IN TRAVEL STATUS AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN MEMPHIS UNTIL APRIL FIFTEEN, NEXT.

ON APRIL FIFTEEN, NEXT, MEMPHIS WILL OBTAIN COPIES OF ALL PERTINENT HOSPITAL RECORDS FROM MR. LUTON. P

END.

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